

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF DRAYTON.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1907.

To the Rural District Council of Drayton.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting my Annual Report upon the health of your District for the year ending 31st December, 1907.

The death-rate of 16.2 per 1,000 was 2 per 1,000 higher than 1906, but only slightly above the average for the previous ten years. The birth-rate of 23.1 per 1,000 is the lowest recorded for the District. The infant mortality rate again shews a satisfactory decrease, being 35 per 1,000 births below the preceding ten years' average. The zymotic death-rate is the same as that of 1906, which was under the average.

PHYSICAL FEATURES AND GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS.

The Rural Sanitary District of Drayton comprises an area of upwards of 51,000 acres, situated in the great central plain of England. The general elevation of the district is about 300 feet. The district extends from the parishes of Adderley and Norton-in-Hales on the North, to the parish of Woore on the North-East, where the three counties, Cheshire, Staffordshire, and Shropshire join; to the South, as far as and including the parishes of Hinstock and Child's Ercall, and the villages of Eaton and Little Bolas in Stoke parish. On the East it is bounded by the River Tern and the parish of Cheswardine. On the West it extends to and includes the village of Stoke-upon-Tern, the parish and village of Hodnet, and the hamlet of Marchamley. Near the centre of the district is the town of Market Drayton, with the township of Little Drayton adjoining, and the parish of Moreton Say. The formation throughout is the new red sandstone which attains its greatest elevation in England in the Hawkstone Hills, near the Western limit of the district. The River Tern in its winding course to the Severn drains the greater portion of the district. The land in general contour is level, well watered, highly cultivated, and there are some finely timbered estates. The population is chiefly employed in agricultural pursuits.

VITAL STATISTICS.

POPULATION.—At the last census (1901), the population of the District was 11,708. The estimated population at the middle of 1907 was 11,555. The natural increase of population (that is, the excess of the births over the deaths registered in the year) was 79. The area of the district (exclusive of area covered by water) is 51,383 acres. The number of inhabited houses

at last census was 2,655, and the average number of persons in each house was 4.4.

MARRIAGES.—Only 79 marriages were registered in the whole district against 102 in 1906.

BIRTHS — Two hundred and sixty-seven births were registered, of which 21 were illegitimate. The birth-rate for the year was 23.1 per 1,000—the lowest on record for the district. The average rate for the preceding ten years was 25.2 per 1,000 of the estimated population.

DEATHS.—The total deaths registered in the district numbered 189 but two of these were non-residents, and have to be deducted; one resident died in Salop Infirmary, and his death has to be added, making a net total of 188 deaths. This is equal to an annual death-rate of 16.2 per 1,000 of the estimated population. The average annual death-rate for the previous ten years was 15.7 per thousand. The number of deaths certified as due to the seven chief epidemic diseases was 8, giving a zymotic death-rate of 0.69. The average rate for the preceding ten years was 0.91 per 1,000.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—The number of infants dying under one year of age has decreased steadily since 1902, in which year 46 died. In 1907, twenty-three died (including triplets, and six prematurely born), equal to an infant mortality rate of 86 per 1,000 births. The average rate for the previous ten years was 121 per 1,000 births.

CLASSIFICATION OF DEATHS.—Of the 188 deaths, 86 were of persons of the age of 65 and upwards, and 33 under the age of 5. Twenty-three deaths were certified as due to old age alone—the average age attained being exactly 80 years. Thirty-two deaths were accounted for by diseases of the heart, cancer claimed 23 victims, pulmonary tuberculosis (consumption), and other tubercular diseases 18, bronchitis 15, pneumonia 16. There were six premature births, and four accidental deaths—two by drowning, 1 from over-laying, and 1 from burns. Further details as to the causes of, and ages at death, averages etc., are given in the official tables of the Local Government Board affixed to this report.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—Twenty cases of infectious diseases were notified to me from the whole district during the year, viz., 16 of scarlet fever, two of diphtheria, one of erysipelas, and one of enteric fever. In June, an outbreak of scarlet fever occurred in the Rose Hill, Wistanswick, and Stoke Heath district. All the cases that could not be efficiently isolated at their homes were removed to the Isolation Hospital, and a probable epidemic thereby prevented. Measles and whooping-cough (not notifiable diseases) became prevalent in October, November, and December, and the following schools were closed in order to check the spread of infection:—Market Drayton and Hinstock (1 month), Mcreton Say (6 weeks), Little Drayton, Stoke, and Child's Ercall (5 weeks). Pulmonary tuberculosis (consumption) has been volun

tarily notifiable in the district since 1900. Very few cases have been notified. In cases of death from consumption, notice of the disinfection necessary is sent to the representatives of the deceased. In all cases of infectious disease notified, printed instructions have been sent to the occupiers of infected houses suggesting the precautions to be taken in order to check the spread of contagion. Where insanitary conditions have been found to exist, they have been reported to the Council, either by myself or the Sanitary Inspector. At the termination of all cases, disinfection and efficient cleansing of the infected rooms have been carried out under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

VACCINATION.

The statistics of vaccination in your district for the year 1907 are as follow.—267 children were born and registered; of these, 170 were successfully vaccinated, 21 died unvaccinated, the vaccination of 10 was postponed by medical certificate, 5 were removed out of the district, 51 were not of age at the end of the year, and 10 remain unvaccinated in consequence of the parents having conscientious objections to vaccination.

HOUSE ACCOMMODATION FOR THE WORKING CLASS.

This is ample for the district, and generally satisfactory. Building bye-laws are in force. Ten old and dilapidated houses, which I reported to be unfit for human habitation have been closed.

PLACES OVER WHICH THE COUNCIL HAVE SUPERVISION.

Lodging-houses, bake-houses, and slaughter-houses are regularly inspected. The regulations of the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops' Order (1886) have been adopted by the Council, and came into force upon the 1st May.

REMOVAL AND DISPOSAL OF HOUSE REFUSE.

A public system was considered, but not adopted; occupiers are, therefore, still responsible, and the removal and disposal of refuse are regulated by bye-laws.

DISPOSAL OF EXCREMENT.

This is partly by water closets and partly by privies and outside closets in connection with cesspits. With the abundant water supply in Market Drayton and Little Drayton, the water carriage system of disposal ought to become general.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

The treatment of the sewage of Little Drayton by the Ducat bacterial filter erected at Quarry Bank, is still satisfactory. A scheme for improving the sewerage and for the efficient treatment of the sewage of Market Drayton has been prepared by your Sanitary Inspector. The estimated cost of the scheme is £8,000, and it is having the consideration of the Council.

WATER SUPPLY.

Water of an excellent quality is supplied to over 1,000 houses in Market Drayton and Little Drayton from the mains of the Market Drayton Water Company. The supply has been extended to Betton. The arrangement for the supply of Norton-in-Flades is not yet completed.

In February I analysed nine samples of drinking water taken by your Inspector from the village of Cheswardine and found all of them more or less contaminated. An agreement between the Council and R. C. Donald Hudson, Esq., has since been completed for the supply of the village with sufficient pure water for all purposes. The supply of other villages in the district with water of good quality is having the consideration of the Council.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT (1901).

The official tables of the Home Office showing the administration of the Act in the district are hereunto affixed.

NUISANCES, ETC.

A summary of the work done during the year by the Sanitary Inspector is given below in tabular form.

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Yours faithfully,

A. MACQUEEN, M.D.

Market Drayton,
23rd March, 1908.

The following is an account furnished by the Sanitary Inspector, of sanitary work for the year ending 31st December, 1907, in the Drayton Rural Sanitary District:—

Number of Houses which have been inspected during the above period, either in connection with outbreaks of infectious disease, or in consequence of complaints, or in the course of a systematic Sanitary Survey	732
Number of legal notices sent	99
Number of informal notices sent	157
Number of such notices complied with	217

Particulars of Sanitary Matters referred to in the above Notices:—

Houses to be disinfected after Infectious Disease	18
Deficient or objectionable water supply	12
New drains to be constructed or old drains to be amended	32
New closets to be provided or old ones to be amended in construction	22
Houses damp or dirty, or admitting rain, or weather, or otherwise in a bad sanitary condition	4
Offensive accumulations of all kinds	152
Animals so kept as to be a nuisance	13
House overcrowded	3
Water Certificates granted	8

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops:—

Number of Cowkeepers and Milksellers on Register	21
Number of inspections	23